



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

May 26, 2020

Dear Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Stakeholders:

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is committed to continued evaluation of our approach to juvenile justice to ensure increased public safety in our communities and best outcomes for the youth we serve. The Department is also committed to a balanced approach that holds youth accountable for their behaviors through data-driven decision making. These commitments led to an assessment of system entry processes.

In 2018, after more than 25 years, an analysis of the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) was conducted to determine its level of effectiveness. The results of this analysis led to the convening of the statutorily mandated DRAI Committee to review and approve a new research-based tool. The Committee also discussed the development of a continuum of supervision options for youth that may be supervised in the community without forgoing public safety. Following several meetings, the Committee approved the implementation of the new tool. In July of 2019, statute modifications allowed for the implementation of the new DRAI and community-based detention supervision options. This continuum of supervision is called supervised release (SR). Supervised release programs are designed to reduce the likelihood of failures to appear in court and/or the receipt of a new charge during the supervision of the program.

The goals of the tool and its associated programs were to produce more accurate results, ensure all youth receive a risk score, and allow for the use of expanded community-based supervision options. The data predictions suggested that less youth would score for secure detention and the success rate for those youth who scored for supervised release would be maintained or improved.

We're excited to report the data for the initial six months of implementation shows all goals and predictions have been achieved. All circuits have a wider range of pre-adjudicatory community-based supervision options, youth that score for secure detention has been reduced by 25%, more youth have been placed into community-based detention supervision programs, and the success rate for youth placed into a supervised release program shows improvement.

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**Ron DeSantis, Governor**

**Simone Marstiller, Secretary**

*The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.*

The Department remains committed to sharing the results of the newly implemented DRAI and supervised release services on an ongoing basis. If you have any questions about the DRAI, supervised release, or your DRAI reports, please contact our Statewide Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Coordinator Minnie Bishop at [Minnora.bishop@djj.state.fl.us](mailto:Minnora.bishop@djj.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone Marstiller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Simone Marstiller  
Secretary